

**Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee
(SSTMD AC) Meeting Summary
May 8, 2008**

Items 1, 2, 3 – Introductions, Approval of March and April Minutes, Chair’s

Comments: Members and guests introduced themselves. Minutes for both March and April were approved and seconded without changes.

Item 4 – IOS Update: **Donald Scheuerman**, Chief Engineer, Design Section, DPWT, Division of Capital Development, provided an update on the progress of the Interim Operations Site (IOS). The Silver Spring Transit Center and the IOS are linked. **Mr. Scheuerman** reminded the committee that the IOS will not be implemented to begin operations until the actual day that construction starts on the Transit Center. Once the IOS is fully operational, the existing bus stops will be moved to the planned on-street stops on Wayne, Dixon, and Bonifant. Wayne will be more heavily weighted toward Metrobuses; Bonifant will see more Ride On buses. Many of the components of the IOS have been put into place already. A new walkway to the MARC commuter rail platform has been constructed. The “jug-handle” at the corner of Colesville Road and Wayne Avenue has been re-constructed and once the IOS opens will no longer operate as a jug-handle, which should improve circulation and safety in the area. The wrought iron fence in the median of Wayne Avenue has greatly improved pedestrian safety. New traffic signals have been installed. And pads for the bus shelters have been constructed, though the shelters themselves will not be installed until just before the IOS becomes operational.

The Silver Spring penguin will be used as the brand for the IOS will be the Silver Spring penguin, and it will be used as a wayfinding tool at each bus stop. There will be 18 kiosks containing a pictogram that lays out the downtown area and will show where the bus stops are located, and which stop to go to, depending on the bus route the commuter is looking for. These kiosks will all be graffiti resistant.

Mr. Scheuerman stated that bids for the Transit Center construction were received on April 23rd. At this point, the Quality Selection Committee is evaluating the written proposals and will be looking for best value, which may or may not be the lowest bid received. The Quality Selection Committee is moving the process along, and a contract may be awarded this month. Since Mr. Scheuerman is on the Quality Selection Committee, he is duty bound to say very little about this part of the process.

Transit Center construction is expected to take about 26 months.

Julian Leidman asked why the schedule is a year behind. **Mr. Scheuerman** answered that there were further budget negotiations needed, and that the scope of work and costs had to be reevaluated.

Mr. Scheuerman noted that the County is undergoing a reorganization. Beginning July 1, 2008, the Department of Public Works and Transportation will be reorganized into the Department of Transportation and the Department of General Services (DGS). The Transit Center will be under DGS at that time.

Harry Sanders, Action Committee for Transit, asked if the concept of selecting the contractor was based on 'best value,' and additional funding was necessary, would the County need to support that. **Mr. Scheuerman** answered that it would be necessary for the County Council to support that approach.

Item 5 – Updates: **Jim Polk** stated that the Purple Line is hosting another round of Open Houses. One will be held for the Silver Spring area May 14th at 5 p.m. at East Silver Spring Elementary School. **Mr. Polk** will be unable to attend, so he encouraged interested members and guests to attend and report back. **Mr. Sanders** noted information on ridership by station as well as other information that will help better understand the impacts and potential of the system might be available at that meeting.

Sgt. Tom Harmon updated the group on police activities. He provided handouts with information on crashes. Total crashes were down in April. There is a new Traffic Analyst in charge of tracking and breaking down statistics about every car and pedestrian accident from the most minor to the very serious.

Police Week is coming up. Most of the traffic teams will be downtown assisting officers and survivors of slain officers. On the Wednesday, May 14th, the Maryland District Courthouse on Second Avenue will be dedicated to Judge Leonard Ruben, who passed away recently. A portion of Second Avenue will be closed down for the ceremony, which will be from 9:30 am to 1 pm.

Sandra Brecher stated that Commuter Services is working to expand collaborative efforts with other County offices, particularly regarding environmental protection activities. Commuter Services is working internally to increase transit "Applications," which is the process used for commuters to request information regarding commuting options. As of now, people fill out the application and work through the Commuter Services office to get the information they need. Ultimately, this will transition to more of a web-based system. There will still be a way to access the services without use of a computer. Additionally, one thing that is unique to Montgomery County is the personalized follow-up that Commuter Services provides with each commuter who completes an application.

Ms. Brecher reported that the commuter store – to be called TRiPS – is set to move to its new location on June 7, 2008. [*Editor's comment:* This date was subsequently changed.] The new location for the store will be on the corner of Wayne and Ramsey. The

commuter store location will be marked on the information kiosks mentioned by **Mr. Scheuerman** earlier. Commuter Services' offices will move to 1110 Bonifant.

Terrie O'Steen announced that Bike to Work Day will be held May 16th, from 6:30 – 8:30 a.m. The Silver Spring Pit Stop will be at the plaza in front of Discovery Communications. As of April 28th, there were 125 registrants for the Silver Spring Pit Stop. NOAA is also having their own special Bike to Work event immediately following the one at Discovery. **Ms. Brecher** added that with all area buses equipped with bike racks now – both Metrobus and Ride On – it is much easier to ride a bicycle at least part of the way to work.

Charles Segerman shared with the group information he learned about from a friend regarding a somewhat different approach to promoting biking and other modes which is used in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Instead of doing a bike-to-work type event only one day each year, there they have a very grass-roots organization that promotes using alternative modes on a specific day once each month. They circulate information about it using flyers and the internet. They also printed up T-shirts with all the dates for that year. **Mr. Segerman** offered to bring in some more detailed information on this approach. **Ms. Brecher** noted that through the Council of Governments the region is working on a Car-Free Day event as separate from Bike to Work Day.

Jim Carlson noted that the Annual Commuter Survey will be distributed within the next two weeks.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting date: June 12, 2008

Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee (SSTMD AC)
Attendance Sheet
May 8, 2008

Voting Members (12)			
Name	Affiliation	Present	Absent
Chamber Members (3)			
Ali Mahmood	Chevy Chase Bank		X
James S. Polk, Chairman	Technology Service Corporation	X	
Tom Collins	Atlantech Online	X	
Citizens Advisory Board Members (3)			
Edward Furgol	Kemp Mill, Four Corners, East SS	X	
Charles Segerman, Vice Chairman	North & West Sector Plan Area	X	
Andy Wexler	CBD Resident	X	
TMD Employers less than 50 employees (3)			
Julian Leidman	Bonanza Coin	X	
Suvita Melehy	Melehy & Associates		X
Cathy Wilde	Solid Waste Assoc of North America		X
TMD Employers with 50 or more employees (3)			
G. Michael Price	Discovery Communications	X	
Robin Goudy	Social & Scientific Systems		X
Geoffrey Kreig	Merchant Link		X
Non-Voting Members (4)			
Sandra Brecher, DPWT Transit Services	DPWT Director or Designee	X	
Chuck Kines	M-NCPPC		X
Sergeant Thomas Harmon	Montgomery County Police	X	
Staff			
Terrie O'Steen	DPWT, Commuter Services	X	
David Kantor	DPWT, Commuter Services		X
Jim Carlson	DPWT, Commuter Services	X	
Guests			
Harry Sanders	SS Resident	X	
Zachary Minton	Attending for Geoff Krieg – Merchant Link	X	
Brad Meadows	Discovery Communications	X	
Donald Scheuerman	DPWT	X	